



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INAUGURAL MEETING
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2006, AT 7:30 P.M.
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

L. Little, Chair
G. Manning, Vice Chair
K. Andrews, Trustee
C. Denesiuk, Trustee
W. Huebert, Trustee
D. E. Jamieson, Trustee
L. Van Alphen, Trustee

G. Doi, Superintendent of Schools
F. Regehr, Secretary-Treasurer
B. Celli, Assistant Superintendent
R. Shongrunden, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
J. Hickling, Director of Maintenance
L. Hauptman, Director of Instruction
D. Burgoyne, Director of Instruction
D. Adey, Executive Secretary

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Little welcomed district staff and representatives of the media.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Denesiuk/Andrews that the agenda and addendum be approved.

CARRIED

3.0 PRESENTATIONS BY SCHOOLS AND/OR STUDENTS

3.1 10,000 To-Night

Penticton Secondary and Princess Margaret Secondary School students, accompanied by Vice Principal Trevor Robinson, Penticton Secondary School, and Vice Principal Terry Grady, Princess Margaret Secondary School, presented highlights of the successful "10,000 To-Night" door-to-door canvass for food items. Both schools joined forces to benefit the community and jointly collected in excess of 13,500 food items which will keep the food bank supplied until July. More than four hundred volunteers participated in the project. The support of parents, staff, Salvation Army, and business people of the community was acknowledged as well as the people of Penticton for their generous support of the annual project.

Following a number of questions, trustees extended congratulations to the leadership students on the success of their project.

3.2 FRIENDS

Heather Rose, a teacher from Columbia Elementary and the District Trainer for the FRIENDS program, made a presentation on the FRIENDS for Life program. FRIENDS is a classroom-based program that helps young people cope with and manage anxiety and depression both now and later in life. It is designed to be used with all students, takes only 10 sessions to complete, and is able to be run by a school's regular classroom teachers. FRIENDS sits well within health and physical education syllabuses that focus on personal development skills. FRIENDS promotes self-esteem, problem-solving skills, psychological resilience, self-expression, and building positive relationships with peers and adults. The program is aimed at grade 4 and 5 students. Student workbooks are provided free by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to classrooms using the program after training.

3.3 West Bench Elementary School

Grade 1 and 2 students at West Bench Elementary School recently wrote letters to and produced a film of students singing Christmas carols for Captain Gough who is serving in Afghanistan. After providing background information related to the origin of the letters and film, their teacher, Bonnie Bordin, presented the video at the meeting.

4.0 RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS AND GUESTS

5.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: Huebert/Andrews that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on November 6, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

6.0 REPORT FROM CLOSED MEETING

The secretary-treasurer reported on the closed meeting held on November 6, 2006:

1. Received correspondence;
2. Received reports from the finance and management committee and the discipline committee;
3. Approved additional administration time to seven middle and elementary schools;
4. Confirmed teaching, excluded, and CUPE staff changes;
5. Received information related to a property matter;
6. Received information on student suspensions;
7. Approved participation in a research project as part of a Post Graduate Diploma in Special Education;
8. Received information related to meetings of the British Columbia Public Schools Employers Association and the Okanagan Labour Relations Council;
9. Received information on a personnel matter.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Letter from Centennial Advisory Committee

A letter from Penticton's Centennial Advisory Committee requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to the Board.

7.2 A Letter from the Federal Minister of Finance

A letter from the federal Minister of Finance in response to the Board's letter which requested that school boards receive a 100% rebate of the *Goods and Service Tax* (GST) as was provided to municipalities.

7.3 A Letter from Minister of Education

A letter from the Minister of Education regarding school planning councils.

7.4 Letter from the BC Christian Coalition

A letter from the Coalition of 10 organizations representing traditional Judeau-Christian values regarding the Corren Settlement Agreement.

7.5 Summary of Copies of Letters to the Board

Copies of the letters to the Board listed below are available in the trustee reading file:

- British Columbia Teachers' Federation enclosing a copy of a brief on the "Graduation Portfolio Review" to the Minister of Education;
- School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) to the Minister of Education requesting the Ministry of Education amend as necessary the *School Act and Regulations* to ensure that all programs and academies can be maintained in their present state;
- School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) to the Minister of Education regarding the recent Supreme Court decision on school fees;
- School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) to the Minister of Education regarding the Minister's statement regarding school fees;
- School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) to the Minister of Education requesting that the Ministry initiate changes to the *School Act and Regulations* regarding school fees;
- School District No. 38 (Richmond) to the British Columbia School Trustees Association requesting BCSTA arrange time at the December Academy for a plenary session to discuss school fees;
- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) to the Minister of Education expressing its concern about the amount of time district staff have had to spend this fall producing class size and composition reports for the Ministry of Education;
- School District No. 60 (Peace River North) to the Minister of Education expressing concern over the lack of consultation with duly elected school boards on issues that significantly affect public school students in this province such as the withholding of annual facilities grant monies, the change in funding for distance education programs, and changes to the graduation portfolios program;
- School District No. 35 (Langley) to the Minister of Education expressing concerns around the uncertainty and delays in receiving funding for the new collective agreements for employees, recommendations that were implemented from the *Industrial Inquiry Commission Recommendations to Resolving the Teachers Collective Bargaining Dispute for Teachers on Call*, and the annual facilities grant;
- School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) to the Minister of Education regarding the annual facilities grant;
- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) to the Minister of Education regarding the uncertainty around the annual facilities grant;
- School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) to the Minister of Education expressing concerns about the annual facilities grant being eliminated or substantially reduced;
- School District No. 60 (Peace River North) to the federal Minister of Finance requesting an amendment to the *Excise Tax Act* to rebate 100% of GST to school boards across Canada;
- School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) to the federal Minister of Finance responding to the Minister's letter on the rationale for allowing a 100% rebate of GST to municipalities while retaining the rebate to school districts at 68%;
- School District No. 47 (Powell River) to the federal Minister of Finance requesting an amendment to the *Excise Tax Act* to reflect 100% exemption of GST for school boards;
- School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) to the British Columbia School Trustees Association regarding membership fees being used to further the advocacy role of BCSTA.

MOTION: Denesiuk/Jamieson that the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

8.0 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

8.1 Education Committee

Trustee Manning reported that the education committee visited Kaleden Elementary School on December 5, 2006, toured classrooms, were guided by eager capable students, watched students engaged in their studies, and enjoyed lunch with staff. Additionally, Trustee Manning reported on the education committee meeting held on November 21, 2006:

a. Understanding Early Years (UEY) Project

The UEY proposal, which includes surveying randomly selected students from the district's kindergarten classes and conducting follow-up telephone surveys with their families, was presented by Director of Instruction Garth Schafer. For this year only, the UEY will replace the Early Development Instrument survey and results will be provided to participating districts as well as being summarized in a report to the federal government to inform its decision-making with respect to support to regions. A recommendation to proceed with this project was approved.

b. Independent School Enrolment

Director of Instruction Garth Schafer presented for information only a summary of Independent Schools' enrolment numbers.

c. FSA Results

The district's FSA results were presented. Director of Instruction Lynn Hauptman identified high participation rates, strong performances in reading and writing, and improving numeracy results as highlights of note. Schools continue to use FSA data as background indicators. Most schools, however, have developed other assessment means to monitor student progress on an ongoing basis.

d. Lock Down Procedures (Draft)

Assistant Superintendent Brian Celli presented two draft versions of the Lock Down Procedures – a short, "ready reference" version for use in emergent situations and a longer more comprehensive version. It was noted that this was the beginning of a larger review of the district's critical response capacity.

e. Safe School Report

The final version of the *Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools Progress Report*, to be submitted to the Ministry of Education, was presented by Assistant Superintendent Brian Celli.

f. Masters Research Project

Director of Instruction Garth Schafer presented an overview of Kathy Pierre's (VP, Aboriginal Education) proposed Masters Action Research Project to be conducted at West Bench Elementary School. Approval was given for this project to proceed.

MOTION: Manning/Andrews that the report of the education committee be received.

CARRIED

8.2 Policy Committee

Trustee Van Alphen reported on the policy committee meeting held on November 21, 2006:

a. Draft New Policy No. 350 – Nutrition

Director of Instruction Dave Burgoyne reviewed a draft nutrition policy developed with Deb Donoghue, the helping teacher for social responsibility. The policy

reflects the work of the healthy foods review completed last year. Following discussion,

MOTION: Van Alphen/Denesiuk that the draft Policy No. 350 – Nutrition be approved in principle and circulated to partner groups for 30 days for any suggestions for changes.

CARRIED

b. Policy No. 203 – Student Fees

Superintendent Doi reviewed work to date to implement the effect of the court ruling on school fees. Preparations to send a letter to parents, which clarifies the allowed and revised fees practices, were also reviewed. The cost of providing secondary schools with funds that would previously have been collected in the second semester has been calculated and funded at \$51,600. The December board meeting will consider a letter for distribution to parents which will describe the practices. Consultation with parents and staff will be considered for the finalized procedures recommended in the letter.

MOTION: Van Alphen/Huebert that the report of the policy committee be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Buildings, Grounds, Safety and Transportation Committee

Trustee Jamieson reported on the buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee meeting held on November 29, 2006:

a. Field Development – City of Penticton

Director of Maintenance John Hickling discussed the plans for the field development at Carmi Elementary and the Nkwala sports field. Plans prepared by the City of Penticton include a number of structures on the fields to support the ballplayers including a washroom/changeroom/concession building, bleachers, dugouts, batting cage, and high fencing. In working with the City, a number of location changes have been proposed and accepted to minimize the cluttering of the fields and minimize visual obstructions for the supervision of students. The committee clarified a number of issues regarding the design, operating arrangements, and construction. By consensus, the committee supported that the design appears to provide both acceptable access to playfields by students and the community and is supported to proceed.

b. Penticton Secondary School Site Development

The secretary-treasurer distributed a memo summarizing previous discussions of options for the Penticton Secondary auditorium. Information regarding the auditorium not being funded or planned in the Penticton Secondary reconstruction has been reported in board communications, public meetings, and the media. These communications have indicated for the auditorium to be saved a construction and long-term operating plan would need to be proposed to the school district along with an acceptable arrangement for the site. The committee agreed this matter has been well communicated and supported the recommendation that a letter be written to the City of Penticton.

MOTION: Jamieson/Van Alphen that the City of Penticton be advised the school district will be finalizing plans for the Penticton Secondary School site and the option to retain the auditorium will be provided until March 31, 2007.

CARRIED

c. Adventure Playground Review

Mr. Hickling reviewed current planning for the upgrading of adventure playgrounds on school sites. A review of the condition of adventure playgrounds is in the process of being organized into a work plan. The maintenance department has attended some PAC meetings and will arrange for more meetings to review details

of the playgrounds and initial planning of how the PAC and maintenance department can work together on the replacement. Mr. Hickling indicated options for large and small elementary schools and a sequence for replacement will be developed.

d. Community Use of Facilities

The secretary-treasurer advised that a recent communication received at a Ministry of Education meeting indicated new policy may be received regarding community use of facilities. Details were not provided.

MOTION: Jamieson/Andrews that the report of the buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee be received.

CARRIED

8.4 Finance and Management Committee

Trustee Jamieson reported on the finance and management committee meeting held on December 6, 2006:

a. B.C. Mail

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Ron Shongrunden advised the school district's postage meters will require replacement in January 2007 for a cost of \$35,000. We have reviewed an alternate postage service coordinated through the Ministry of Labour. Mr. Shongrunden advised the new service will assist with parcel shipments and all letters with cost savings for the district.

b. Laptop Computers

The committee reviewed practices in B.C. school districts for trustee computer access. In more than 50% of districts, computers are made available and a limited number of districts are starting to use computers for board meeting agenda information. The committee discussed the benefits and implications of communicating through computers rather than paper.

MOTION: Jamieson/Andrews that trustees be provided the option of a laptop computer for board communications.

CARRIED

MOTION: Jamieson/Andrews that the report of the finance and management committee be received.

CARRIED

9.0 REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER

9.1 Penticton Secondary School Reconstruction

In providing a report on the reconstruction of Penticton Secondary School, the director of maintenance advised approximately 75% of the excavation work has been completed and approximately 10% of the foundation has been completed. The cold weather has delayed installation in some of the concrete work and a delay in the delivery of the primary power equipment will now cause the electrical switchover to occur over the Christmas break. Mr. Hickling noted the gas line break which occurred near the site was not caused by construction related to Penticton Secondary School.

9.2 Financial Report

The secretary-treasurer reviewed the financial report to November 30, 2006 provided in the agenda package noting that expenses are a little over budget but the Ministry funding recalculation is not yet received. Mr. Regehr added the recalculation for salary and enrolment is expected sometime this month and will require adjustments to the budget.

9.3 Annual Facility Grant

The secretary-treasurer advised a commitment to fund the annual facility grant amounting to \$1,297,000 has been received from the Ministry. This amount is slightly less than in previous years and the annual facility grant projects approved last month will be adjusted to reflect the decrease.

9.4 Transportation Update

The assistant secretary-treasurer reviewed start-up issues related to student transportation noting some crowding issues on some of the buses were overcome without additional routes being required. Mr. Shongrunden added a group of districts in the Okanagan had organized a group to look at a shared type of service to help with administration of the districts' transportation systems. This zonal bid has now evolved to a provincial committee looking at transportation services such as route scheduling for the entire province.

9.5 Policy No. 460 – Course Challenge for Credit and Policy No. 462 – Course Equivalency

Secretary-Treasurer Regehr advised the 30-day circulation period to partner groups was approved at the November 6, 2006 board meeting for Policy No. 460 – Course Challenge for Credit and Policy No. 462 – Course Equivalency. To date, no suggestions have been received to modify these policies and the policies are therefore recommended for adoption.

MOTION: Huebert/Van Alphen that Policy No. 460 – Course Challenge for Credit and Policy No. 462 – Course Equivalency be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

10.0 REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**10.1 Student Achievement****a. District Workgroups (Literacy, Numeracy and Social Responsibility)**

Director of Instruction Hauptman reported on two very successful meetings for literacy and numeracy, advised the SmartReading project is moving ahead with demonstration classes, and the numeracy group is looking at the Vancouver Island assessment package. Assistant Superintendent Celli added the social responsibility workgroup is moving away from implementation of initiatives to culture building in the schools and advised the only TRIBES training session for Canada will be held in Penticton in 2007.

b. District Progress Report (Accountability Contract)

Director of Instruction Lynn Hauptman reviewed highlights of the District Progress Report for 2006-07. The entire report is available on the district website.

10.2 Communication and Access**a. Field Trips**

The superintendent of schools reviewed a listing of field trip requests circulated with the agenda package, three of which had been approved by the superintendent.

MOTION: Manning/Jamieson that the following field trip requests be approved for funding as per board policy:

- November 3 and 4, 2006, for two Summerland Secondary School students to compete in the provincial cross-country finals in Victoria, BC;

- November 17 to 19, 2006, for seven Princess Margaret Secondary students to compete in the provincial swimming championships in Victoria, BC;
- November 3 and 4, 2006, for nine students from Penticton Secondary School to compete in the provincial cross-country championships in Victoria, BC;
- November 28 to December 2, 2006, for 13 students from Penticton Secondary School to compete in the senior boys provincial volleyball championships in Kelowna, BC.

CARRIED

MOTION: Denesiuk/Van Alphen that the following field trip request be approved:

- June 13 to 16, 2007, for 32 grade 8 band students to travel to Edmonton, Alberta.

CARRIED

MOTION: Andrews/Van Alphen that the following field trip request be approved:

- December 6, 2006, for four students from Uplands Elementary, Summerland Middle, and Princess Margaret Secondary schools to participate in Wendy's Disneyland dreamlift to Disneyland in Anaheim, California.

CARRIED

MOTION: Jamieson/Manning that the following field trip request be approved in principle:

- February 23 to 25, 2007, for 14 grade 10 to 12 band students from Princess Margaret Secondary to travel to Moscow, Idaho, to compete in the annual Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival.

CARRIED

10.3 Other Items

a. Enrolment

The superintendent of schools noted enrolment as of November 30, 2006 shows 7,144 students (6,852.881 FTE) in the district.

b. School Fees

The superintendent of schools reviewed the school fees issue and the progress achieved to date since the Supreme Court decision on October 17. As part of the review process, district administration and school principals have consulted with staff, parent and student groups, parent advisory councils, school planning councils, and the district parent advisory council regarding the implications of the court ordered changes to student fees. The Board has committed to maintaining the courses and programs for the second semester which were previously dependent on student fees, at a cost of approximately \$51,000, and will review courses and programs for the 2007-08 school year as part of the 2007-08 budget process. Trustees reviewed a letter to parents that provides an overview of the circumstances in which fees are not allowed and those in which fees are permissible.

MOTION: Denesiuk/Jamieson that the letter to parents explaining the school fees be forwarded immediately.

CARRIED

11.0 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES**12.0 NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS****13.0 INFORMATION ITEMS****13.1 BCSTA Trustees Academy**

Trustees commented briefly on their attendance at the BCSTA Trustees Academy held December 7 to 9, 2006 in Vancouver and were reminded to complete their report of attendance at the conference for inclusion in the trustee reading file.

13.2 Date of Next Meeting

- January 15, 2007, 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, School Board Office

14.0 TRUSTEE COMMENTS**14.1 Recognition of Student Success**

School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) extended congratulations to the students and groups for outstanding examples of success as shown on the recognition sheet included with the agenda package.

14.2 Recognition of Student Artwork

Congratulations were extended to the following students from the Home Learners' Program for their artwork currently on display at the school board office:

- Katelyn Roos – Grade 1
- Lily Eggert – Grade 2
- Emma Roos – Grade 2
- Abby Sherwood – Grade 2
- Laura Moore – Grade 4
- Danica Roos – Grade 4
- Julia Veidt – Grade 7
- Anne Ramey – Grade 9
- Emily Ramey – Grade 9
- Ciara Walls – Grade 9

14.3 Trustee Comments

Trustees provided general comments related to district activities including the musical playing at Summerland Secondary School, the reading program at Queen's Park Elementary, and the official signing of the memorandum of understanding for the partnership between Okanagan College, the school district and local industry. The signing for the residential construction program, which will build a home in the Rock Garden Estates development in Summerland, takes place on December 14th.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Andrews/Manning that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

CARRIED

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer